

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/565,728

Examiner

Vaughn T. Coolman

Applicant(s)

MEHTONEN, PEKKA

Art Unit

3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview with applicant's representative of 05/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060124
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Hairston on 05/17/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. In claim 1, line 6, "runners (2) which extend backwards over the container" has been changed to

----- runners (2) having back ends (2a) and extending backwards from the container -----.

2. In claim 1, line 8, "and the supporting means for" has been changed to

----- and for -----.

3. In claim 1, line 9, "characterised in that it" has been changed to

----- wherein the sled -----.

4. In claim 1, line 10, "the rear portion" has been changed to

----- a rear portion -----.

5. In claim 1, line 13, "and the supporting means for" has been changed to

----- and for -----.

6. In claim 2, line 1, "characterised in that the handle" has been changed to

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----- wherein each of the handles -----.

7. In claim 2, line 2, "it" has been changed to

----- the attachment portion at -----.

8. In claim 3, line 1, "characterised in that" has been changed to

----- wherein -----.

9. In claim 3, line 2, "in essentially" has been changed to

----- at essentially a -----.

10. In claim 4, line 1, "characterised in that" has been changed to

----- wherein -----.

11. In claim 4, line 1, "the handles (3, 4) are" has been changed to

----- the grip portion (4) of the handles (3) is -----.

12. In claim 4, line 2, "it" has been changed to

----- the sled -----.

13. In claim 5, line 1, "characterised in that" has been changed to

----- wherein -----.

14. In claim 5, line 1, "the handles (3, 4) are" has been changed to

----- the grip portion (4) of the handles (3) is -----.

15. In claim 5, line 2, "it" has been changed to

----- the sled -----.

16. In claim 6, line 1, "characterised in that" has been changed to

----- wherein -----.

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17. In claim 7, line 1, “characterised in that the section of the sleeve (7) is a regular polygon and the handle (3) includes the attachment portion (6) adapted to the inner dimensions of and having the corresponding section than the sleeves” has been changed to

----- wherein each sleeve (7) has a regular polygonal cross section and each handle (3) includes an attachment portion (6), each attachment portion having a cross section corresponding to said cross section of each sleeve, wherein the attachment portion is adapted to fit into the sleeve -----.

18. In claim 8, line 1, “characterised in that the section of the sleeve (7) is a square” has been changed to

----- wherein the regular polygonal cross section of each sleeve (7) is a square cross section ----
---.

19. In claim 9, line 1, “characterised in that” has been changed to

----- wherein -----.

20. In claim 9, line 2, “in the” has been changed to

----- in an -----.

21. In claim 9, line 3, “and the” has been changed to

----- and a -----.

22. In claim 9, lines 3-4, “for making possible to use” has been changed to

----- to aid in using -----.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the references taken individually or collectively teach or anticipate the limitation(s) of handles including attaching the handles “in different positions for different purposes of use so

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that in the first position the handles form said supporting means for setting the sled on the back ends of the runners” found in independent claim 1. The closest prior art is that of:

1. Hunt (U.S. Patent No. 4,438,940) which shows a handle (36) detachably attached to a rear portion of a container that forms supporting means for setting the sled on the back ends of the runners; and

2. Molodecki (U.S. Patent No. 4,631,877) which shows a similar sled structure to that disclosed by applicant.

However, Hunt shows only one handle, wherein the only positions of the handle are attached and detached. The allowed claim recites “attaching the handles . . . in different positions for different purposes”. It would not have been obvious to duplicate the handle of Hunt due to the inherent stability of the tripod-like arrangement shown in FIG 1. Molodecki lacks handles attached to the rear portion and utilizes the sides of the container for stability, negating the need for handles as disclosed by applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vaughn T. Coolman whose telephone number is (571) 272-6014. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8am-6pm EST.

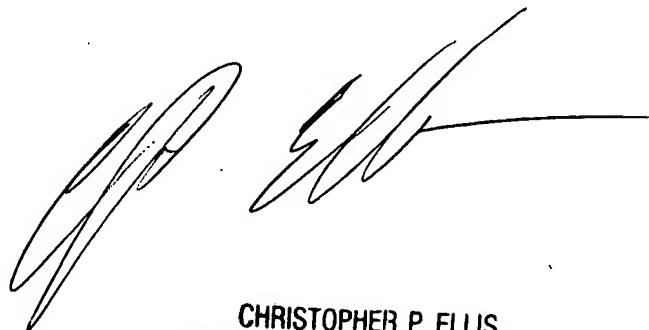
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


vtc 05/17/07

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